
R&PAP
Rural Physician
Support Programs

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Education Opportunities

Financial Incentive for Rural Staff Training (FIRST) Program

The FIRST Program was developed to enable rural health professionals to have access to innovative and collaborative education opportunities that are not already funded elsewhere. Through this program, rural, multi-disciplinary teams can bring team leadership, communication, continuing professional development and medical education, or practice management training sessions to their own communities.

Rural teams of two or more are eligible to apply for up to \$5,000 to host an event in their rural community. These events include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Leadership skills training
- Communication skills training (for example: how to coach and mentor, providing constructive feedback, understanding cross-cultural differences, and decision-making approaches)
- Practice management training
- Special speaker engagements and skills development workshops like fracture management, casting, and PICC line insertions
- Team-based webinars or simulation training

To be eligible, the following conditions must be met:

- The hosting community must be located outside the defined Census Metropolitan Area boundaries of Calgary or Edmonton with a population of fewer than 15,000 people (see rhpap.ca/about for more details)
- The community has not received FIRST Program funding in the previous three years
- The team includes at least two health disciplines
- The application must be made on behalf of the team by a hospital/clinic/health-centre team lead

For more information, visit rhpap.ca/FIRST or email tana.findlay@rhpap.ca



Dr. Ron Gorsche, RhPAP Physician Skills Broker

The RhPAP Skills Broker is a resource for physicians applying to the Peter K. Lindsay Physician Skills Enrichment Program (see Page 4). If physicians are interested in upgrading or developing particular skills, the skills broker can suggest training opportunities that may be available to fulfill their needs and/or tell them if the training they have in mind is eligible for program funding.

The skills broker is responsible for keeping applicants up to date on the status of training requests and ensuring successful applicants have the information and connections they need to complete their training.

Contact Dr. Ron Gorsche at rhpap.ca/skillsbroker

Peter K. Lindsay Physician Skills Enrichment Program

Since 1997, the Peter K. Lindsay Physician Skills Enrichment Program has offered rural physicians the opportunity to upgrade or develop their skills in order to meet the medical needs of their communities. Physicians identify their own training needs and, in conjunction with RhPAP, develop learning opportunities to meet these needs. Typically, RhPAP supports learning opportunities that require a minimum of two weeks up to a maximum of 12 months of study and/or training.

Training can include a variety of opportunities from informal coaching with a specialist to more formal educational programs. The program offers an honorarium that covers costs and expenses while the physician is away from their practice. RhPAP also provides physician preceptor compensation for coaching experiences where a preceptor is a required part of the learning.

Skills enrichment training that has been covered in the past includes the following:

- 2-week medical oncology training
- 2.5-month oncology classroom and clinical training
- 1-month Foundation Course in Occupational Medicine
- 2-week Electrocardiogram Interpretation Course
- R3 in anesthesia, care of the elderly, palliative care, and enhanced surgical skills
- 3-week Cardiac Stress Testing training with a preceptor
- Informal coaching between a specialist physician and a general practitioner

To be eligible, the following conditions must be met:

- The physician must live and practise in an Alberta community located outside the defined Census Metropolitan Area boundaries of Calgary or Edmonton with a population of fewer than 15,000 people (see rhpap.ca/about for more details)
- The physician must have practised in the rural community (see above) for at least 12 consecutive months
- The physician's AHS medical leader supports the need for this training and is willing to provide the necessary letters of support
- The physician must be willing to sign a return-of-service agreement if required
- The training request has been discussed with the RhPAP Skills Broker (see page 3) before submission of the application package

For more information on the Enrichment Program, visit rhpap.ca/PeterKLindsay or email collette.featherstone@rhpap.ca



Rural Mentorship Program

RhPAP's Rural Mentorship Program connects first- and second-year medical students with rural physicians, providing students with the opportunity to observe and learn skills and to practise simple medical procedures in a rural context. For physicians, this program is an excellent way to promote your practice and community to students considering practice in rural Alberta.

Physicians can pick the times and dates that work for them and RhPAP will take care of the rest. Physicians will receive an honorarium to recognize their time. Student expenses are reimbursed up to a set limit.

To book a mentorship experience or to learn more about the program, visit rhpap.ca/mentorship or email mentorship@rhpap.ca

The Rural Education Supplement and Integrated Doctor Experience (RESIDE) Program

This program is designed to address challenges in physician distribution and patient access to health services in rural and remote areas of the province by supporting new-in-practice physicians to explore living and working in rural Alberta.

Alberta family medicine resident physicians who are interested in exploring and practising in rural and remote parts of Alberta are eligible to apply during their final year of residency training. The program supports commence once the successful applicants complete their training. These supports for new-in-practice physicians include the following:

- three months of accommodations
- community orientation and ongoing engagement with the community
- a financial benefit in return for three years of medical practice in the designated rural community

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- be a Family Medicine resident physician in their final year of residency completing their training before the end of the calendar year
- be a resident of Alberta as defined by Elections Alberta (<https://www.elections.ab.ca/voters/who-can-vote/>)
- demonstrate interest in rural health
- be prepared to sign a return-of-service agreement

Preference will be given to applicants who participated in either the University of Calgary's Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship Program or the University of Alberta's Rural Integrated Community Clerkship Program.

For more information, visit rhpap.ca/RESIDE or email RESIDE@rhpap.ca



Continuing Professional Development Funding

To help offset the challenges rural physicians face when accessing continuing professional development, RhPAP supports educational initiatives designed with rural practice in mind. Aided by RhPAP funding, the Office of Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development (the Office of CME & PD) at the University of Calgary works with rural physicians to provide these high-quality training opportunities.

In addition to strengthening existing health-care services in rural communities, these learning opportunities encourage the creation and maintenance of professional networks which help to reduce professional isolation. Together, these opportunities and networks help to build healthy communities for rural physicians and facilitate the retention of health professionals in rural Alberta.

The most well known of these education initiatives is the Emergency Medicine for Rural Hospitals Conference. Every year, the Office of CME & PD puts on this weekend conference in Banff specifically for rural health professionals.

For more information about the Emergency Medicine for Rural Hospitals Conference and the other rural courses and webinars that are offered, visit rhpap.ca/CPD



Courses

Emergency Department Echo (EDE) Ultrasound Course

EDE is the most highly-rated introductory ultrasound course in North America and has been taught to more than 15,000 health professionals. The complete course involves online modules, taken in advance of either two weekend workshops or a four-day “boot camp” taught in your community. During the first two days, participants are taught ultrasound techniques and then provided with an opportunity to practise what they have learned. The final two days of practice allow participants to complete the 50 ultrasound scans and be tested to become independent practitioners through the Canadian Point of Care Ultrasound Society.

In order to help bring the EDE Ultrasound Course to your rural community, RhPAP will do as follows:

- Subsidize 50 per cent of the course cost for rural Alberta health-care providers to take the introductory EDE Course (Part 1) in a rural Alberta community (up to a maximum of \$10,000 per course)*
- Subsidize 50 per cent of the course cost for rural Alberta health-care providers to take the follow-up EDE Course (Part 2) in a rural Alberta community (up to a maximum of \$10,000 per course)*
- Communicate course requirements to community coordinators and follow up with those coordinators to confirm arrangements
- Highlight the experience in social media, print, web, and/or newsletter communications

Communities are encouraged to partner regionally to allow the maximum number of health professionals to attend the course. Registration discounts are available for non-physician participants.

To be eligible, the following conditions must be met:

- The hosting community must be located outside the defined Census Metropolitan Area boundaries of Calgary or Edmonton with a population of fewer than 15,000 people (see rhpap.ca/about for more details)
- The community has not received EDE Course funding from RhPAP in the last three years

For more information, visit rhpap.ca/EDE or email teams@rhpap.ca

* Medical residents and health-care students are not eligible for these subsidies.

General Emergency Medicine Skills (GEMS) Course

The Rural Health Professions Action Plan, in partnership with Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS), offers rural physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants the opportunity to receive relevant, interactive skills training at their rural location through the General Emergency Medicine Skills (GEMS) Course.

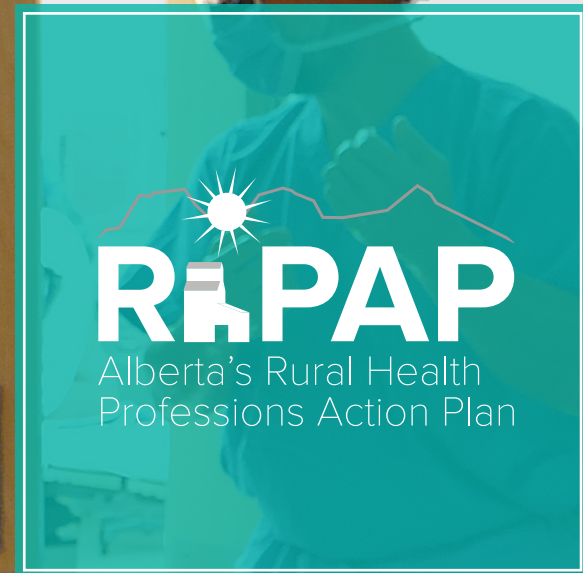
GEMS is an online, multimedia emergency-skills training experience with a hands-on component provided via a STARS Human Patient Simulation Session that enables rural health professionals to upgrade their emergency medical skills at work or at home. GEMS Modules include the following: preparation for transport; C-spine, X-Ray, and CT head; central venous access and intraosseous infusion; shock; advanced airway management and rapid sequence intubation; emergency thoracostomy; injured child; and obstetrical emergencies.

Through maintaining and acquiring emergency management skills, health professionals achieve better patient and professional outcomes while maintaining their interest and commitment to rural Alberta. The GEMS Course meets the accreditation criteria of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) and has been accredited for Mainpro+ credits. Credits are earned at both the successful completion of the full set of online modules and the community-based simulator session.

To be eligible, the following conditions must be met:

- Participant must be an Albertan physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant practising in a rural Alberta community
- For the purposes of this program, a rural community means a community located outside the defined Census Metropolitan Area boundaries of Calgary or Edmonton with a population of fewer than 15,000 people (see rhpap.ca/about for more details)

For more information on GEMS, visit rhpap.ca/GEMS or email gems@rhpap.ca





Rural Locums

Physician Locum Funding

Administered by AMA Physician Locum Services

RhPAP provides funding that allows Alberta Medical Association (AMA) Physician Locum Services® to offer short-term locum services for family physicians in rural areas as follows:

- Office and emergency-room coverage for rural physicians practising and living in communities with fewer than five physicians
- Weekend coverage for any physician in a community with fewer than four physicians
- Weekend coverage for senior physicians who have practised for more than nine years in rural Alberta and are older than 54 (in communities with fewer than 16 physicians)

Locum coverage in summer months may be limited to a maximum of two weeks per requesting physician to accommodate the high demand for these services.

Communities with critical shortages are assisted with locum coverage based on locum availability.

Specialists practising in Alberta regional centres outside Calgary and Edmonton can access the following:

- Specialist locum coverage
- Locum coverage for weekends and for periods away from practice for up to four weeks

For more information on the program and who to contact, visit rhpap.ca/locum



RhPAP is here to support Alberta's rural physicians

If you are a physician practising in rural Alberta, RhPAP has programs to support you. From skills development to locum relief, RhPAP is always looking for new ways to support rural Alberta's doctors.

Find out more

To apply for funding or to find out more about how RhPAP can support your rural practice, please contact:

Rural Health Professions Action Plan

rhpap.ca

info@rhpap.ca

1-866-423-9911

    @AlbertaRhPAP

